

VOL. 17, NO. 16

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER, 16 1911

\$1.25 PER YEAR

THAT 'POSSUM SUPPER.

Six Thousand Dollar
Syndicate Planned

To Corner the Local Commercial
Drift of the Colored People

J. C. JACKSON, PROMOTER

A New Newspaper, Shoe Store
Clothing Store, Grocery, Dry
Goods and Notions all
Anticipated

Permanent Organization Hastily
Effected—All the Official Places
Filled—Price of Shares Rules
and Regulations to Be Submitted
Later

THE STANDARD, together
with more than one hundred
other invited guests, enjoyed
the hospitality of Mr. J. C.
Jackson in the form of a 'possum
supper, given at the U. B.
F. Hall on Thursday night, De-
cember 7th.

Mr. Jackson has the reputa-
tion of being the greatest en-
tertainer along this line in Lex-
ington, and the spread upon
this occasion fully sustained
that view.

But "after the supper he took
the platform," and from up his
magic sleeve let fall a fully-
developed plan to organize
what has been styled the Lex-
ington Co-operative Commer-
cial Association, with a capital
stock of not less than six thou-
sand dollars, for the purpose
of operating numerous business
lines, among which were men-
tioned a newspaper, clothing
store, shoe store, grocery, etc.

A permanent organization
was asked for at once, and all
official places have been filled.
Quite a number were dumb-
founded at what seemed to be
snap judgment taken. How-
ever, a large number danced to
the music, and perhaps fifty
per cent. of those present en-
rolled.

Now since we have escaped
the volumes of cigar smoke
and emerged to the open air
again, the whole affair is given
for discussion.

In view of the fact that no
rules or regulations have been
submitted, and the price of
shares has not been definitely
announced, the organization
has not as yet reached the
point where sane and fair dis-
cussion might be considered
"knocking."

The STANDARD, with a host
of others, can clearly see that
the time is ripe and has never
been more auspicious than now
for the colored people here in
Lexington to undertake and
succeed in a commercial way.

The backbone of the appar-
ent feuds that have long ex-
isted has been broken, and the
agitors and promoters of dissen-
sion have found other employ-
ment. Consequently the ques-
tions come, Why not go for-
ward? what is to hinder?

Mr. Jackson, too, is one of
the watchmen on the walls who
sized up the situation nicely,
but we don't mean for him, or
any small coterie of individuals,
to capture all these good things,
and turn their benefits to pri-
vate ends and personal promo-
tions of any favored few.

The writer believes and it is
his opinion that the social fea-
ture of Mr. Jackson's meeting
was good and ought to be con-
tinued from time to time, and
the people thus held together;
that this move should be con-
tinued as a Business League
upon the Booker Washington
plan to foster business venture
among colored people; in these
meetings, from time to time,
supported by a small stipend
of membership, talk business,
hink business, and plan new

business.
Those who feel that a new-
paper can be made a success,
let such get together on such a
proposition. Those who have
an idea of a clothing store busi-
ness, let them get together
on that, and so on.

But let the big league meet
from time to time and hear re-
ports from those in business, so
that the weak and struggling
can hear suggestions and im-
prove thereby.

We cannot endorse the idea
of a mighty syndicate gobbling
up what little business the Ne-
groes are now doing. We have
a newspaper plant, we have a
clothing store, we have a gro-
cery store, we have first-class
shoemakers who know the shoe
business already. Why not first
put these on a substantial basis,
then add to the list all the new
lines practical?

This is not the day of trust
development. Big corporations
are being dissolved in favor of
small, struggling business en-
terprises. The tendency of
things is to give every man
who is entitled to life a living
chance. The STANDARD, too,
pleads for continued existence,
and there are others also.

We need a business league in
Lexington, so that when our
local standing delegate, who is
a member of the National Com-
mittee, goes off to the National
meeting presided over by Dr.
Booker Washington, he will
really represent something defi-
nite.

It has been fully ten years
since our local league disband-
ed, and not since—just prior to
—the visit of Dr. Washington
here at that time has an effort
been made to revive it. What
is the reason it can't be revived
now? Prior to the 'possum
supper that was thought to be
the object of that call, but the
'possum supper is over and
passed, and we have no busi-
ness league yet, but instead we
have the embryo of a syndicate
that would monopolize every
Negro business possibility in
the city. Can it stand? Will
it stand?

The STANDARD thinks the
plan should be revised.

RESOLUTIONS

On Death of H. E. Seymore, By
Officers of the Constitution
St. Christian Church

At a meeting of the Elders and
Deacons of the Constitution
Street Christian Church, called
for the purpose of taking such
action as might be appropriate in
reference to the death of Bro. H.
E. Seymore, one of the Elders
of the church, the following resolu-
tions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, it has pleased God,
the Almighty and All Wise, who
setteth the bounds of our habita-
tions and numbereth our days,
to take from us our beloved Brother
in Christ and fellow officer in the
church, who for many years has
been a consistent and active mem-
ber and officer of said church, be-
ing a most liberal contributor to
its support; and whereas it is fit-
ting that one whose life was so
productive of good should be kept
in the memory of the church;
therefore, be it

Resolved, That the death of
Brother H. E. Seymore and his
soul's flight from earth has oc-
casioned a great loss to this con-
gregation and its board of officers;
that he was in our humble judg-
ment a Christian indeed, and that
in his exemplary life were gathered
a large majority of the noble qual-
ities that characterize the ideal
man; that he was ever loyal and
devoted to the cause of the blessed
Savior, into whose presence we
believe he has found welcome;

Resolved, That the Board of Of-
ficers of this church view with
deepest regret and sincere sorrow
the remains of this our dear Bro.
Seymore, and hereby express our
heartfelt sympathy and con-
dolence for the bereaved relatives.

Resolved, That we commend
them to Him who doeth all things
for the best, and counsel them to
trust in Him, and weep not as
they who have no hope, for we
are satisfied that the deceased was,
while in life, a true man—true to
his God, true to his church, and
true to himself and friends.

Resolved, That this Board has
lost a most valuable member and
the church a noble Elder whose
place will be difficult to fill.

Resolved, That the C. W. B.
M., the Sunday-school, and every

YOUNG MEN MAKE SUCCESS OF BUSINESS



Mr. Lewis Williams, Jr.

The above is a likeness of
Mr. Lewis Williams, Jr., the
senior member of the firm of
Williams & Reed, Undertakers
and Embalmers, 186 Deweese
Street, this city, both phones
office and residence. Polite,
prompt and efficient service.

The STANDARD inserts this cut
at this time for no other pur-
pose than to call attention to the
young Negro in business, and to
acquaint our friends of the fact
that all that is good in the race
is not with the fathers.

The subject of this sketch was
born in Versailles, trained in the
schools of Versailles, Frankfort
and Berea.

He chose for his life work the
undertaking profession for which
he especially fitted himself, being a
graduate of Prof. J. H. Clark's
Cincinnati College of Embalming
in class of 1901, and during his
twelve years' practice has contin-
ued his studies through series of
lectures given by Prof. A. A.
Dodge, of Boston, at Louisville
and Indianapolis 1902-3, Prof.
Reckels at Louisville and Nash-

ville, 1904-5, and Prof. Barnes of
Chicago.

Mr. Williams has been in Lex-
ington three years, first as em-
balmer and general director for
Chenault & Ellis, until July, 1910,
when he formed a partnership and
established an independent firm of
Williams & Reed.

Their quarters are well equip-
ped, having six rooms—a morgue,
trimming room, private and gen-
eral office. Chapel accommodations
can be readily arranged of three of
the rooms.

Mr. Williams is of a highly in-
telligent turn of mind, and his of-
fice is well stocked with reading
matter—good books, journals and
periodicals of various kinds.

In 1905 in Lexington he made
the principal address on scientific
methods in the profession before
the first meeting of the Colored
Funeral Directors which was held
in this State.

He is an active member of the
First Baptist Church, and is one
of the trustees of the same. He
is also a member of the K. of P.
Lodge, also U. B. F. and Sons
and Daughters.

other organized church auxiliary
have sustained a great loss of one
who was a friend and helper of ev-
ery department of the church
work.

Resolved, That a copy of these
resolutions be spread upon the
church records, and a copy be for-
warded to the bereaved family and
to the press for publication.

Done this December 10, 1911.
(Signed)

B. J. TAYLOR,
Chm'n Gen. B'd
S. H. SAUNDERS,
Chm'n Deacons
JEROME TYLER,
Sec'y
D. I. REID, Committee

EDUCATION OF
OUR CHILDREN

Booker T. Washington's Open
Letter, Urging More and
Better Schoolhouses.

To the Colored People of the South:

This is a season of the year
when for several years it has
been my privilege to call the
attention of our people to the
importance of improving the
facilities for public school edu-
cation. I mean the masses of
children in the small public
schools.

As I have said before, I think
a very small percentage of the
children of our race can be sent
to a large boarding school. The
masses must be educated at
home in the small public
schools if they are to get any
education at all.

As I have studied conditions
in most parts of the South, I
find that the people on the
whole deserve the greatest de-
gree of credit in their efforts to
educate their children. In many
cases they pay tax themselves
aside from what they pay in the
way of public taxes, in order
to build schoolhouses and
extend school terms. This is
all commendable.

We want, however, to be
sure that we go forward every
year. If we do not go forward
in providing better school fac-
ilities, we will go backward, be-
cause the number of children

to be educated is increasing
each year.

My special object in calling
attention to this matter is to
impress the ministers, business
men, teachers, and other lead-
ers with the importance of hav-
ing comfortable, well-furnished
schoolhouses in every commu-
nity. You will not accomplish
much in the way of education,
no matter how good a teacher
may be secured, without a
good, comfortable schoolhouse.

In many cases, especially in
the Gulf States, the school-
houses provided for the educa-
tion of the Negro children are
disgraceful. In some cases,
they are not fit for animals to
stay in. It is a cruel imposi-
tion upon teachers and pupils
to compel them to sit in a cold,
uncomfortable schoolhouse day
by day. In such cases it is im-
possible for the children to
learn anything.

The thing that I urge upon
each community is that they
unite their efforts this fall and
winter in providing a good,
comfortable schoolhouse. If ev-
ery person will contribute a
small amount in the way of
money or labor or some kind of
farm produce, within a few
months a good, comfortable
schoolhouse can be built and
furnished in every community
in which our people live.

Good schoolhouses will mean
in the future good teachers and
a school term lasting eight or
nine months in the year.

If those who read this com-
munication have not already a
good schoolhouse in their com-
munity, I earnestly beseech
them to begin at once to build
one.

One other thing: Often a
large amount of the money put
in a school building is almost
thrown away because no plan
has been provided for the su-
pervision for the work of erect-
ing it. No matter how inexpen-
sive the schoolhouse may be,
care should be taken to get an
architect or some other com-
petent person to draw plans for
the building.

Wherever it is possible, of
course, the public school au-
thorities should be asked to
provide public school facilities
at all. Unless these have never been ex-
ceeded at and

C. J. MYERS

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made Suits, and
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decent schoolhouse. Where it
is not possible to obtain a suit-
able building from the authori-
ties, the people should get to-
gether themselves and erect a
schoolhouse that meets the
needs of pupils and teachers.

In many of the cities and
small towns in the South, thou-
sands of children are suffering
for education because there are
not enough schoolhouses in the
South to properly seat and pro-
vide for the Negro children.

Wherever this is true our lead-
ers should come together and
formulate their needs, and
bring them before the public
school authorities. They should
continue to urge their needs
until schoolhouses are provided
for our people.

I have noted that in some of
the cities nearly one-half of the
colored children are kept out of
school or are in school only
half a day, because of lack of
room. Our race, like other
races, can only secure proper
educational facilities in the cit-
ies by constantly urging their
needs on the proper authorities.

This should be done by every
community and city where the
public school authorities have
undertaken the task of provid-
ing school buildings.

I am glad to add that in
many of the communities and
cities of the South, creditable
schoolhouses are provided in an
increasing degree for the edu-
cation of the Negro child.
But we not only want to see
that no backward step is taken,
but that we go forward both in
the country and city year by
year in providing decent, com-
fortable school buildings.

In connection with what I
have said in this letter, we have
marked the beginning of the
one-half of the colored children
in the South do not attend any
school at all. Unless these have never been ex-
ceeded at and

conditions are speedily changed
our race in this and succeeding
generations will be greatly
handicapped by ignorance.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama,
Dec. 11, 1911

A GREAT BANQUET

Given in Washington to Wm. H.
Lewis, the No. 1 Boston
Lawyer

Appointed by President Taft to
the Office of Assistant
Attorney General.

WASHINGTON—Wm. H. Lewis,
Assistant Attorney General
of the United States, was ban-
queted Monday night, Novem-
ber 27th, in the auditorium of
the True Reformers' hall by
over 150 enthusiastic banquet-
ers.

The hall was decorated with
flags and bunting. A large por-
trait of President Taft was in
the center of a large cluster of
American flags. The Wilber-
forcean orchestra played patri-
otic airs. In the galleries were
fashionably-dressed ladies of
the Capital's smart set, looking
down upon the scene of festi-
vity and merriment.

Charles E. Hall, a prominent
census official, who was chair-
man of the committee of man-
agement, presented Professor
L. M. Hershaw as the toast-
master of the evening. This
marked the beginning of the
toasts of the evening, which,
in point of wit and eloquence,
have never been excelled at and

banquet board at the Nation's
Capital.

"Three cheers for Lewis!"
These were given with a gusto,
that marked the high tide of
the evening's enthusiasm.

"This has been the happiest
moment of my life," said Mr.
Lewis, when he began his re-
marks. "To-day is my forty-
third birthday. In crossing
the meridian, the equator of
life, I am glad to have had
with me such a goodly company
of friends and comrades. You
have certainly given me a warm
time. I knew I had arrived at
the chloroform age by your at-
tempts to Oslerize me. Never
before, sir, have I received
from men of my own race such
a splendid testimonial of their
esteem and regard. I assure
you that it touches me most
deeply, and places me under
triple bonds of gratitude and
service."

"If only we could have true
friendship and comradeship of
even those gathered here, with
faith in themselves and their
fellows, indeed we should have
the most splendid race the sun
ever shone upon."

"We could make divine our
country here, but, as Daniel
O'Connell said, speaking of the
Irish race more than half a
century ago, 'God knows I
speak of the saddest race the
sun sees.' So I speak to-night
for the most distracted race the
sun sees, a race torn by bitter
dissensions, factional feuds and
strife."

"I plead to-day for friend-
ship, for comradeship, between
men who desire and are striv-
ing for the same thing, and the
same high ideals of life. We
seldom realize that comradeship
is the great dynamic force of
human progress. The com-

Continued on Page 4